

I say this House ought to take a different course, one in which we can stand united with those who fought with meritorious service on behalf of a grateful Nation. Let us pay the medical bills of America's sons and daughters. Let us do so with dispatch. Let us hire the doctors that America's sons and daughters deserve.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a great deal about this issue over the last several months. We know it is not a new issue. We have heard that it has been going on through several different administrations, but that should not hinder us from stepping up to the plate and doing what is necessary today, not after we come back from our so-called vacation in August, but we should address it today before we go home.

So I urge that this motion to instruct conferees be accepted by this body, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE DONALD NASSHORN

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence has awarded its prestigious Bronze Key Award to an outstanding community servant and leader in my district, the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judge Donald Nasshorn, for his outstanding contribution in the field and with the affiliated Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc., where he was a member of the council's board of directors for 27 years and president of its board for 16 years.

During this time, Judge Nasshorn led the council through periods of growth and expansion of its services, including chairing the council's building committee, as it purchased three buildings to accommodate council programming, and for many years, he has been recognized as a champion of early intervention and recovery support services to those involved in the criminal justice system.

Currently, Judge Nasshorn chairs a Bucks County overdose prevention task force, and so we join in honoring Judge Nasshorn for his years of outstanding leadership, for his advocacy, for his compassionate service to our

community, and for setting an example for others to follow.

SOLAR ENERGY AT THE TOLEDO ZOO

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Toledo Zoo, recently voted the best zoo in America, on its dedication of a new 2.1-megawatt solar array.

The project is a win for everyone involved. It embraces the future. It will supply 30 percent of the zoo's electricity needs, and it makes use of a vacant brownfield site in the city that would otherwise be a financial and environmental burden.

It serves as a wonderful educational tool for the zoo's more than 800,000 annual visitors.

Unfortunately, this is success story that will be difficult to replicate in Ohio due to the backward energy policy recently enacted by Ohio's Governor and State legislature.

As America strives to regain energy security, we must embrace all energy options, especially innovative, renewable energy sources that will power our future into and beyond the 21st century.

Hats off to the Toledo Zoo for serving as a national leader in advancing this goal.

Madam Speaker, I will include for the RECORD a recent article from the Toledo Blade detailing this really incredible success.

[From the Blade, July 22, 2014]

RUDOLPH/LIBBE PROJECT: SOLAR ARRAY TO
SUPPLY POWER TO TOLEDO ZOO

BROWNFIELD SITE WILL AGAIN BE PRODUCTIVE

(By Tom Henry)

A massive, 2.1-megawatt solar array that has put 22 acres of vacant South Toledo land back into production is to be dedicated today. It's the kind of comeback that supporters believe will become less common across Ohio because of a recent bill Gov. John Kasich signed into law discouraging investments in renewable power.

The ceremony for the Rudolph/Libbe project near the Toledo Zoo is expected to draw a contingent of area business and government leaders interested in seeing how land contaminated by past industrial practices, known as brownfield sites, can go back on the tax rolls and generate clean energy while reducing blight.

In this case, a group of local investors led by Rudolph/Libbe Cos.—a limited liability company called Anthony Wayne Solar Number 1—is doing that for one of the region's largest employers and one of its most popular destinations, the Toledo Zoo.

The solar array and property, adjacent to the north side of the zoo's main parking lot between Anthony Wayne Trail and Spencer Street, are owned by those investors, who have a long-term contract in place to sell electricity generated at the site exclusively to the zoo.

The project, developed by Rudolph/Libbe and a sister company, GEM Energy, will generate about 30 percent of the Toledo Zoo's annual electricity needs, Jason Slattery, director of solar for Rudolph/Libbe Inc., said.

"This project is a great example of the public and private sectors working together to benefit the zoo and the community," Mr. Slattery said. "We took a contaminated brownfield site, a financial burden for the city, and turned it into a win for the city of Toledo and the Toledo Zoo."

He and other supporters believe such projects will be harder to come by now, though, because of the two-year legislative freeze on renewable-energy mandates that Mr. Kasich has signed into law.

That legislation, known as Senate Bill 310, applies only to utilities, not companies such as Rudolph/Libbe. But Ohio became the nation's first state with renewable-energy mandates to enact a two-year timeout.

A 2008 law requires utilities doing business in Ohio to steadily invest more in renewable power through 2025, when at least 12.5 percent of the electricity they provide is supposed to come from clean sources such as wind and solar energy.

Renewable energy advocates fear that two-year hiatus will put out a message to the business community that Ohio is no longer receptive to such investments.

Rudolph/Libbe, one of the region's largest contractors, expects to be doing more work in Michigan and New York, which have strong incentives for solar projects, Mr. Slattery said.

The solar industry has had setbacks from the failure of a high-profile manufacturer, California-based Solyndra, as well as the deep financial troubles of local manufacturers such as Xunlight and Willard & Kelsey.

But Rudolph/Libbe's an installer, not a manufacturer.

Growth in solar nationally has transformed the company's business model.

Since 2008, Rudolph/Libbe went from virtually no involvement in solar to having 10 percent of its revenue come from it.

It believes solar-installation projects will eventually become the backbone of as much as 30 percent of Rudolph/Libbe's revenue.

Although Rudolph/Libbe will likely have to rely on states other than Ohio for that sort of push, it still expects to line up some Ohio contracts during the two-year freeze and hopes state legislators regain their interest in what the company sees as a budding industry, Mr. Slattery said.

"We think the costs of doing solar is an unstoppable train and it's not getting off the tracks," he said.

Rudolph/Libbe's costs for solar projects have come down from \$9 per watt to \$2 per watt since 2008. More affordable prices have resulted in more business, Mr. Slattery has said.

For the project near the zoo, investors worked with the Lucas County Land Bank, an agency that strives to repurpose vacant land, he said.

The site, formerly in receivership, was once home to a Haughton Elevator Co. factory, but it has not been used since the early '90s.

There are 28,500 solar panels on 15 of the site's 22 acres. Additional panels could be put on some the remaining seven acres in the future. Officials first want to assess the viability of adding more, after examining the amount of shade cast off nearby homes along Spencer Street during the four seasons, Mr. Slattery said.

The site is believed to be one of the nation's largest solar installations generating power for a zoo.

"This solar array supports the zoo's mission by using cleaner and greener energy, reducing reliance on nonrenewable energy while providing an inspiring example for zoo visitors," Jeff Sailer, Toledo Zoo executive director, said.

Rudolph/Libbe also developed the zoo's 1,400-panel walkway, called SolarWalk,